

CLASSIFICATION    ~~SECRET/CONTROL~~ - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY  
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT  25X1

25X1 COUNTRY  Poland

**SUBJECT** Polish Shipping; SS GENERAL WALTER

DATE DISTR. 7 November 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1	DATE OF INFO.
------	---------------

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 25X1

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO  25X1  
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The officers of the Polish vessel, SS GENERAL WALTER, are generally content with conditions aboard the ship. A few of the elder officers resent younger officers whose attendance at the Merchant Marine school is based on political considerations and who are placed in responsible positions without the necessary experience.
2. The non-official personnel aboard the GENERAL WALTER are almost all very young and are in the pre-military categories, having just completed the maritime schools. Although the GENERAL WALTER is listed with the Maritime Compartment at Danzig, many of the crew members are from the interior of Poland.
3. In Poland, as in the USSR, the students who fail in their studies after the fourth elementary grade are sent to the professional artisan schools. Many of them choose the Merchant Marine as a career.

25X1

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL~~ - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

[illegible]

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

25X1

5. According to crew members of the GENERAL WALTER, the shipyards of Gdynia and Gdansk are working at maximum capacity in filling naval construction orders of the Polish Merchant Marine. Many new metal working and mechanical tool factories have been opened and most of the pre-war factories have been restored.
6. According to the Polish seamen [redacted], life in Poland is neither as good nor as bad as described by various observers and commentators. They claim that work is assured for all, at wages sufficient to obtain the necessary amounts of food and other basic requirements, but that there is no surplus for luxuries or unnecessary commodities. Scarcity of goods is attributed to exports to the USSR, inadequate imports and the considerable percentage of industry engaged in war production.
7. Polish seamen ashore [redacted] generally make large purchases of shoes and cloth. They claim that these products are scarce in Poland and that they cost more in Poland than [redacted]. They intimate that cloth and leather goods are defective in Poland because of a lack of primary material and the stockpiling of uniforms and shoes in military warehouses.

25X1

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY